

We Claim:

1. In an electronic device that provides an environment for modeling a system, a method for linking to resources, the method comprising:

5 providing a visual representation of a model; and

 in response to an action taken by users in connection with the visual representation of the model, presenting a user interface that provides a hierarchy of options regarding resources associated with the model so that the users select one of the options, the user interface being presented on the visual representation of the model,

10 wherein the options are linked to the resources that enable the users to navigate the model.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the visual representation of the model is not presented in a same window as the user interface.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein the visual representation includes a hyperlink to the model.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the hierarchy of the options includes hierarchical hyperlinks to the resources.

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5. The method of claim 1 wherein the user interface is provided in a pop-up menu.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the hierarchy of options includes hierarchical references to the resources, the hierarchical references in a same hierarchical level being provided in one of same row and column of the user interface.

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7. The method of claim 6 wherein the hierarchical references includes forward hierarchical references.

30 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the forward hierarchical references use 'a href' tags.

9. The method of claim 6 wherein the hierarchical references includes backward hierarchical references.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the backward hierarchical references use 'a bhref' tags.

5 11. The method of claim 6 wherein in response to users' action to select a hierarchical reference, a resource linked to the hierarchical reference is retrieved and provided to the users.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the hierarchy of options includes hierarchical references to the resources, the hierarchical references in a first hierarchical level being provided in one of first row and column of the user interface.

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13. The method of claim 12 wherein each of the hierarchical references in the first hierarchical level is provided with a graphical element when the hierarchical reference includes subsequent hierarchical references.

15 14. The method of claim 13 wherein in response to users' action to select a hierarchical reference provided with the graphical element, the subsequent hierarchical references included in the selected hierarchical reference are provided next to one of the first row and column where the selected hierarchical reference is provided.

20 15. The method of claim 13 wherein in response to users' action to select a hierarchical reference provided with the graphical element, the subsequent hierarchical references included in the selected hierarchical reference are provided over one of the first row and column where the selected hierarchical reference is provided.

25 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the user interface includes an up arrow that enables users to access resources associated with a second system in a higher level than the system.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the resources include generated code corresponding to the system.

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18. The method of claim 1 wherein the resources include a requirements document corresponding to the system.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the resources include a coverage report corresponding to the system.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the modeling environment provides functions that enables users to define component models of the system.

21. In an electronic device that provides an environment for modeling a system, a method for linking to resources, the method comprising:

providing a textual description that includes a plurality of words, the textual description including a visual reference to the resources; and

in response to an action taken by users in connection with the visual reference, presenting a user interface that provides a hierarchy of options regarding the resources associated with the visual reference so that the users select one of the options,

wherein the options are linked to the resources that enable the users to navigate the resources.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the visual reference is not presented in a same window as the user interface.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein the visual reference includes a hyperlink to a resource.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the hierarchy of the options includes hierarchical hyperlinks to a resource.

25. The method of claim 21 wherein the user interface is provided in a pop-up menu.

26. The method of claim 21 wherein the hierarchy of options includes hierarchical references to the resources, the hierarchical references in a same hierarchical level being provided in one of same row and column of the user interface.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the hierarchical references includes forward hierarchical references using 'a href' tags.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the forward hierarchical references use 'a href' tags.
29. The method of claim 26 wherein the hierarchical references includes backward
5 hierarchical references.
30. The method of claim 29 wherein the backward hierarchical references use 'a href' tags.
31. The method of claim 26 wherein in response to users' action to select a hierarchical
10 reference, a resource linked to the hierarchical reference is retrieved and provided to the users.
32. The method of claim 21 wherein the hierarchy of options includes hierarchical references
to the resources, the hierarchical references in a first hierarchical level being provided in one
of first row and column of the user interface.
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33. The method of claim 32 wherein each of the hierarchical references in the first
hierarchical level is provided with a graphical element when the hierarchical reference
includes subsequent hierarchical references.
- 20 34. The method of claim 33 wherein in response to users' action to select a hierarchical
reference provided with the graphical element, the subsequent hierarchical references included
in the selected hierarchical reference are provided next to one of the first row and column
where the selected hierarchical reference is provided.
- 25 35. The method of claim 33 wherein in response to users' action to select a hierarchical
reference provided with the graphical element, the subsequent hierarchical references included
in the selected hierarchical reference are provided over one of the first row and column where
the selected hierarchical reference is provided.
- 30 36. The method of claim 21 wherein the user interface includes an up arrow that enables users
to access resources associated with a second system in a higher level than the system.

37. The method of claim 21 wherein the resources include generated code corresponding to the system.

38. The method of claim 21 wherein the resources include a requirements document
5 corresponding to the system.

39. The method of claim 21 wherein the resources include a coverage report corresponding to the system.

10 40. The method of claim 21 wherein the modeling environment provides functions that enables users to define component models of the system.

41. In an electronic device that provides an environment for modeling a system, a method for linking to resources, the method comprising:

15 providing a visual reference to the resources, wherein the resources include data regarding a first system; and

in response to an action taken by users in connection with the visual reference, presenting a user interface that enables users to access resources including data regarding a second system,

20 wherein if the first system is in a vertical hierarchy structure of the second system, the second system is at least two steps higher than the first system in the hierarchical structure of the second system.

25 42. The method of claim 41 wherein the visual reference includes a hyperlink representation of the first system.

43. The method of claim 41 wherein the user interface is provided in a pop-up menu.

30 44. The method of claim 41 wherein the user interface includes a graphical element that indicates that users can access the resource that includes the data regarding the second system.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein the graphical element is an up arrow.

46. The method of claim 41 wherein the resources regarding the first system include generated code corresponding to the first system.
47. The method of claim 41 wherein the resources regarding the first system include a requirements document corresponding to the first system.
48. The method of claim 41 wherein the resources regarding the first system include a coverage report corresponding to the first system.
49. The method of claim 41 further comprises:
in response to the selection of the user interface, providing additional user interface that provides hierarchical references to the resource that includes the data regarding the second system so that the users select one of the hierarchical references,
wherein each of the hierarchical references is linked to a resource that includes data regarding the second system and enables the users to navigate the data of the second system.
50. The method of claim 49 wherein the hierarchical references includes forward hierarchical references.
51. The method of claim 50 wherein the forward hierarchical references use 'a href' tags.
52. The method of claim 49 wherein the hierarchical references includes backward hierarchical references.
53. The method of claim 52 wherein the backward hierarchical references use 'a href' tags.
54. The method of claim 49 wherein the resources regarding the second system include generated code corresponding to the second system.
55. The method of claim 49 wherein the resources regarding the second system include a requirements document corresponding to the second system.

56. The method of claim 49 wherein the resources regarding the second system include a coverage report corresponding to the second system.

57. In an electronic device that provides an environment for modeling a system, a method for linking to resources, wherein the resources include different kinds of data regarding the system, the method comprising:

providing a visual reference to the resources; and

in response to an action taken by users in connection with the visual reference, presenting a user interface that provides a hierarchy of options to select one of the different kinds of data on the system so that the users navigate the different kinds of data on the system.

58. The method of claim 57 wherein the different kinds of data include generated code corresponding to the system.

59. The method of claim 57 wherein the different kinds of data include a requirements document corresponding to the system.

60. The method of claim 57 wherein the different kinds of data include a coverage report corresponding to the system.

61. The method of claim 57 wherein the user interface includes an up arrow that enables users to access resources associated with a second system in a higher level than the system.

62. A medium holding instructions executable in a computer that runs a software tool for modeling a system, comprising:

providing a visual reference to resources; and

in response to an action taken by users in connection with the visual reference, presenting a user interface that provides a hierarchy of options regarding the resources associated with the visual reference so that the users select one of the options,

wherein the hierarchy of options enables the users to navigate the resources.

63. The medium of claim 62 wherein the visual reference includes a hyperlink representation of the system.